

Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 15 and 43-47, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

E1 40. (previously added) The method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and a second mating profile extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure providing access to the interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction, and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the zipper closure; the method comprising:

- (a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package; and
- (b) moving the slider device in said second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

41. (previously added) The method according to claim 40, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

- (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

42. (previously added) The method according to claim 41, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

- (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

Claims 43-47 (canceled)

48. (previously added) A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure comprising first and second mating profiles and providing access to the interior; a slider device mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; and a tamper-evident structure encasing a first portion of the zipper closure, the tamper-evident structure defining an opening that provides access to the slider device; wherein the method comprises:

- (a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package; and  
(b) moving the slider device in said second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

Cont  
49. (previously added) The method according to claim 48, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

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(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

50. (previously added) The method according to claim 49, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

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